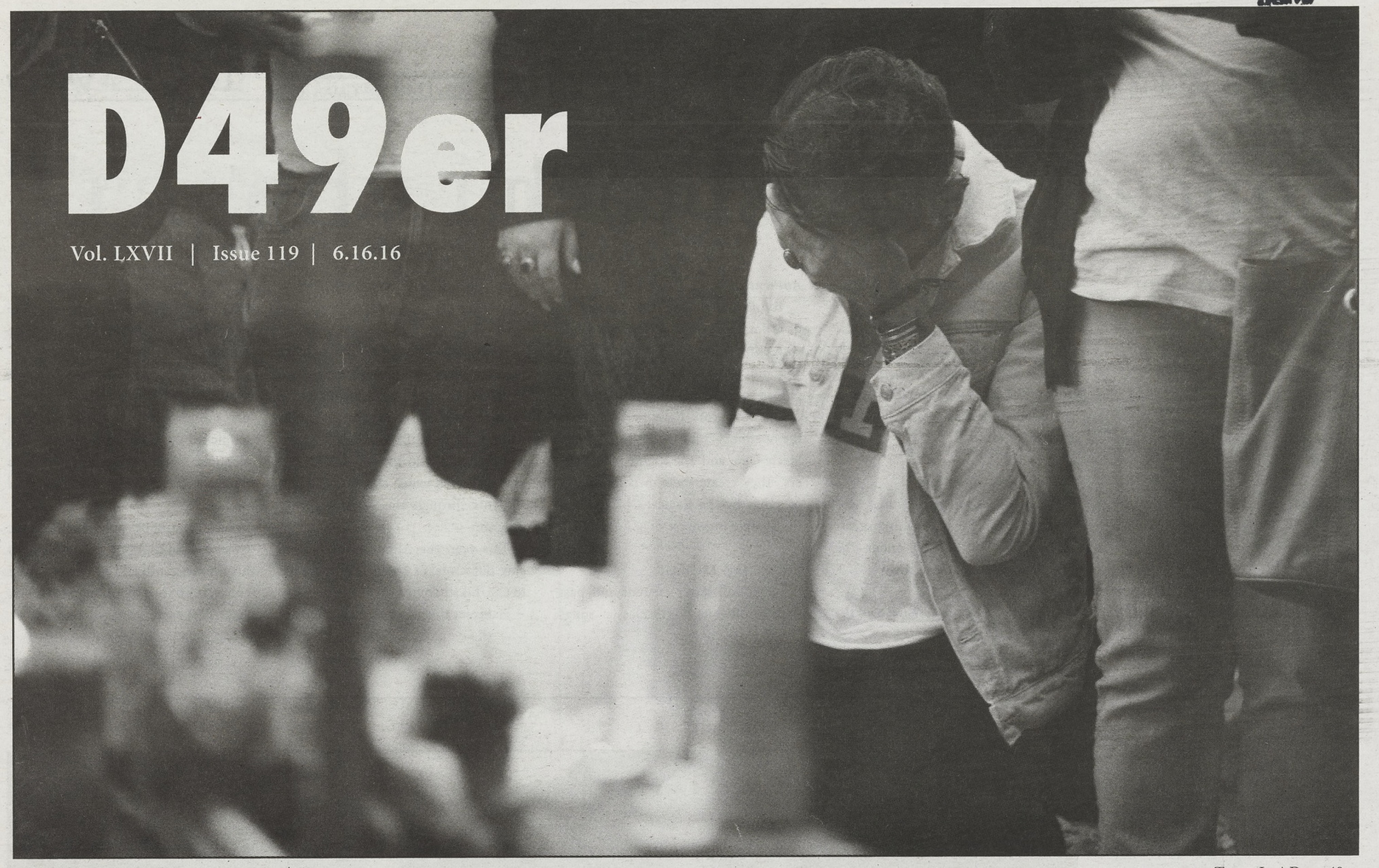
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Trang Le | Daily 49er

An LGBTQ supporter mourns during the Long Beach vigil Sunday.

'ONE PULSE'

Long Beach shows support for victims in Orlando with vigil.

By Yasmin Cortez
Multimedia Managing Editor

Long Beach community members gathered Sunday evening at Harvey Milk Park to honor the lives lost in the Orlando shooting at Pulse nightclub, an LGBT-focused venue, that morning.

Emotions ran high for residents who brought candles, flowers and held others while hoisting rainbow flags to mourn the loss of 49 individuals.

"It's a nice moment to see the community come together, [I'm] really proud of them but most importantly it's just important for us to support what's happening in Orlando and support all of our brother's and sisters there," said Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

The vigil included on-site counseling provided by the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach.

"Mental health resources and crisis counseling is vital to folks who have

see **PULSE**, page 2

IN SOLIDARITY

CSULB will host a vigil to honor the victims from the Orlando mass shooting, today at 11:30 a.m. on the Southwest Terrace of the Student Union.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INSIDE: *Tragedy in Orlando:* **page 3** *An open letter to homophobes:* **page 6**

Democrats filibuster for gun control

Sen. Murphy has vowed to keep talking until the Senate votes for stricter gun laws.

By Michaela Kwoka-Coleman
News Editor

Senate Democrats, alongside a few Republicans, have launched a filibuster on gun control legislation led by Sen. Christopher S. Murphy.

Murphy, a senator from Connecticut, started the filibuster Wednesday morning by saying he will stand on the floor until Republicans and Democrats come together on the issue of gun control legislation.

"I am prepared to stand on the Senate floor and talk about the need to prevent gun violence for as long as I can. I've had #Enough," Murphy tweeted Wednesday morning.

The filibuster continued into Wednesday evening with no resolution in sight, according to Politico, a media group group that focuses on politics.

see **FILIBUSTER**, page 3

CSULB mourns student athlete

Long Beach State hockey coach called Campisi 'one of the most dedicated players to ever wear the LB State jersey.'

By Michaela Kwoka-Coleman
News Editor

Ray Campisi, a Cal State Long Beach student and member of the Long Beach State hockey team, died last week at the age of 51.

According to the Long Beach State Hockey Facebook page, Campisi had a heart attack during a recreational adult league hockey game at the Promenade Ice Chalet in Rolling Hills Estate on Wednesday, June 8. He was pronounced dead by doctors an hour later.

Campisi was born in Ipswich, Mass., and began playing hockey as a young child.

According to Frank Mitrano, coach of the LB State hockey team, Campisi played wing but was always ready to help out wherever he was needed on the ice.

Before joining the team at CSULB, Campisi played football at Northeastern University in the 1980s. When Campisi was injured, his football career came to an end and eventually led to him dropping out of school.

In an interview with USA Hockey Magazine in March 2014, Campisi said that he always regretted not finishing school, so decades after his withdrawal from Northeastern University he enrolled at Santa Monica City College.

Campisi told USA Hockey Magazine that while at Santa Monica City College, he received good grades and wanted to be challenged on a bigger campus.

Eventually, Campisi applied and was accepted to CSULB in 2012.

It was during his first year at CSULB that Campisi stopped at the Culver City Ice Arena for a therapeutic skate-session. Campisi told USA Hockey Magazine that the session re-

see **CAMPISI**, page 3

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Concerts at the beach

The CSULB Alumni Association will be holding several concerts during the summer for students, family, and friends.

BY MICHAELA KWOKA-COLEMAN
News Editor

Cal State Long Beach will be hosting its first annual "Concerts at the Beach" during the months of July and August, according to a press release.

The events will be sponsored by the CSULB Alumni Association and will be held at the Legacy Courtyard in front of the kinesiology building.

The schedule and acts for the concerts are as follows:

Friday, July 9- Stone Soul

Stone Soul is known for their Motown style and for performing music by artists such as Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, and James Brown.

Friday, July 16- Tommy Tassi and the Authentics

Tommy Tassi and the Authentics have a notable spirit and energy, while recreating the music of artist from the '50s and '60s.

Friday, August 6- The Emperors

The Emperors have performed as the opening act for the Rolling Stones, Steely Dan, and The Righteous Brothers. They create their own renditions of songs by the Eagles, Chicago and the Doobie Brothers.

Friday, Aug. 13- Mo50

Mo50 will cover current and past rock-n-roll hits with classic songs from The Beatles, Elton John, Coldplay and Train.

There will also be a raffle, with prizes donated from local businesses including hotels, restaurant gift certificates, wine tastings and theatre tickets.

The proceeds from the drawings will be donated to the CSULB Alumni Association which supports CSULB students through the Alumni Grant program.

This year, the Alumni Association gave out a total of $49,792.16 in grants to CSULB students.

Gates for the event will open at 6:30 p.m. and the concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event are $35 per person and include reserved table seating.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own picnic dinners or pre-order a dinner online which can then be picked up at concert. Additionally, alcoholic beverages will be available to purchase for those 21-years-old and up.

Tickets can be purchased on the CSULB Alumni Association website at http://web.csulb.edu/alumni/events/concerts.html or by calling (562) 985-7022.

PULSE

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PHOTOS BY TRANG LE | DAILY 49ER

Two attendees of the Long Beach vigil at Harvey Milk Park on Sunday, above, embrace. LGBTQ Executive director Porter Gilberg speaks at a gathering Sunday at Harvey Milk Park to show support for the Orlando victims.

experienced trauma and who need an outlet and we are absolutely proud to offer that to our community," said LGBTQ Executive Director, Porter Gilberg, "The outpouring of support tonight is incredible."

Tragedy struck Orlando when a gunman opened fire around 2 a.m. in Pulse, which was hosting a Latin-themed dance night with more than 300 people in attendance.

The attack resulted in the death of 49 people and 53 injuries and is the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history, according to a statement made by President Barack Obama.

Some members of the Long Beach community marched in solidarity from Bixby Park to the vigil while raising rainbow flags.

The march was organized on Facebook by 175TheMovie, an upcoming indie film about the struggles of the LGBTQ community in Germany during WWII.

"Today we walk for ourselves and we walk for all those people who were killed." said Vachelle Poetoehena, a Long Beach resident who attended the vigil. "We'll cry and we'll scream but we are stronger than hate,"

The month of June is gay pride month, with pride festivals being held across the world.

"Long Beach has a large LGBT community and so it's important that we show our support to [Orlando,]" said Garcia who attended the vigil with his partner.

> "We'll cry and we'll scream but we are stronger than hate.
>
> *-Vachelle Poetoehena, Long Beach resident*

Los Angeles was hosting its annual Pride Festival on the same weekend as the shooting. Long Beach held a festival the weekend before.

On the same morning as the Orlando shooting, James Wesley Howell was arrested after being found with armed with guns, ammunition and explosives in his car while on his way to the L.A. Pride in Santa Monica

To ensure the safety of Long Beach residents, the Long Beach Police Department amped up safety around gay clubs and Muslim mosques in Long Beach, according to Long Beach officials.

"We have been very present throughout this whole event just to ensure everyone's safety," said Commander Randy Allen, Port Police division, "It definitely means we need to be very vigilant we need to ensure that all of us are paying attention...We have heightened all our security in all those positions."

For those who still feel affected by the incident, crisis counseling is available at the Long Beach LGBTQ Center.



Tragedy in Orlando

The attack is the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

BY YASMIN CORTEZ
Multimedia Managing Editor

Orlando is in mourning after a gunman stormed into Pulse, a gay nightclub where more than 300 people were in attendance, and opened fire.

The shooting on Sunday ended after a three-hour standoff which resulted in 49 people dead and 53 injured.

This the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. History, according to a statement made by President Barack Obama on Sunday.

The shooter, 29-year-old Omar Mir Seddique Mateen, arrived at Pulse around 2 a.m. where a Latin-Flavor dance night was being held. Mateen first shot the club bouncer and then entered the nightclub in open fire.

Twenty-two minutes after continual shooting with a legally purchased Sig Sauer MCX .223-caliber rifle and a Glock 17 9mm semi-automatic pistol, Mateen called 911 and pledged allegiance to ISIS.

Whether Mateen had a direct link to ISIS has yet to be determined.

The SWAT team didn't enter the club until 5 a.m. when they were given the all clear from previously alleged bomb threats. SWAT broke down doors and Mateen was killed at 5:53 a.m.

Mateen's father said his son may have been motivated by anger toward the LGBT community.

However, several Pulse regulars reported that Mateen was no stranger to the club.

"Sometimes he would go over in the corner and sit and drink by himself, and other times he would get so drunk he was loud and belligerent," Ty Smith, a Pulse regular, told the Orlando Sentinel.

Some users on the gay dating apps Grinder and Adam4Adam have claimed that Mateen had an active account, which has led investigators to question if Mateen was closeted in his sexuality.

Mateen's wife, Noor Salman, told officials that he had an interest in carrying out a jihadist attack. Officials said he scouted Pulse and Downtown Disney in Orlando as potential targets.

A grand jury is to investigate Salman to determine if she will face criminal charges.

The attack fell during Pride month with celebrations taking place across the country in cities such as Orlando, Detroit, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

On the same morning as the attack, James Wesley Howell was arrested after being found with assault weapons and explosives in his car on his way to L.A. Pride in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks said on her Twitter that 20-year-old Howell told an officer that he wanted "to harm [people at the] Gay Pride event."

According OSCE Hate Crime reporting, in 2014 the total number of overall hate crimes reported was 6,385. However hate crimes have decreased since 2009 by 18 percent.

The total number hate crimes reported in 2014 based on bias against the LGBTQ community was 1,287, which is a 10 percent decrease since 2009.

"LGBT people are more than twice as likely to be the target of a violent hate-crime than Jews or black people," said Mark Potok, a senior fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Patience Carter, a survivor from the attack, recounted details at a press conference from Florida Hospital Orlando, saying Mateen spared her because she was black. According to Carter, while she was hiding in the bathroom Mateen entered and asked, "Are there any black people in here?"

Carter remained silent but when someone answered that there were, Mateen responded, "I don't have a problem with black people… this is about my country. You guys suffered enough."

A majority of victims were Puerto Rican since it was a Latin themed night with the youngest victim aged 18 and the oldest 50.

In the wake of the Orlando shooting, thousands of people were reported to have lined up to donate blood across the nation, but not all were eligible to give blood, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

The Orlando Sentinel also reported that a large group of attempted donors were gay and bisexual men. However, gay and bisexual men are not allowed to donate blood, due to a federal ban by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that does not allow men who have had sex with another male in the last 12 months to donate.

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dryer announced in a statement the launch of the website OneOrlando Fund to help support the victims and family members.

The Walt Disney Company has pledged $1 million to the fund and JetBlue gave $100,000 and offered free plane rides to the immediate family members of the victims.

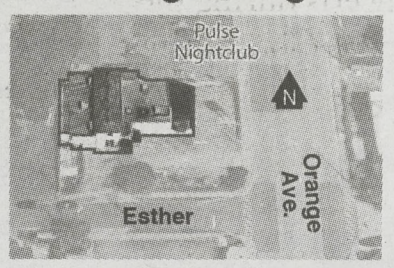
Vigils took place throughout the U.S., including one in Los Angeles and one in Long Beach.

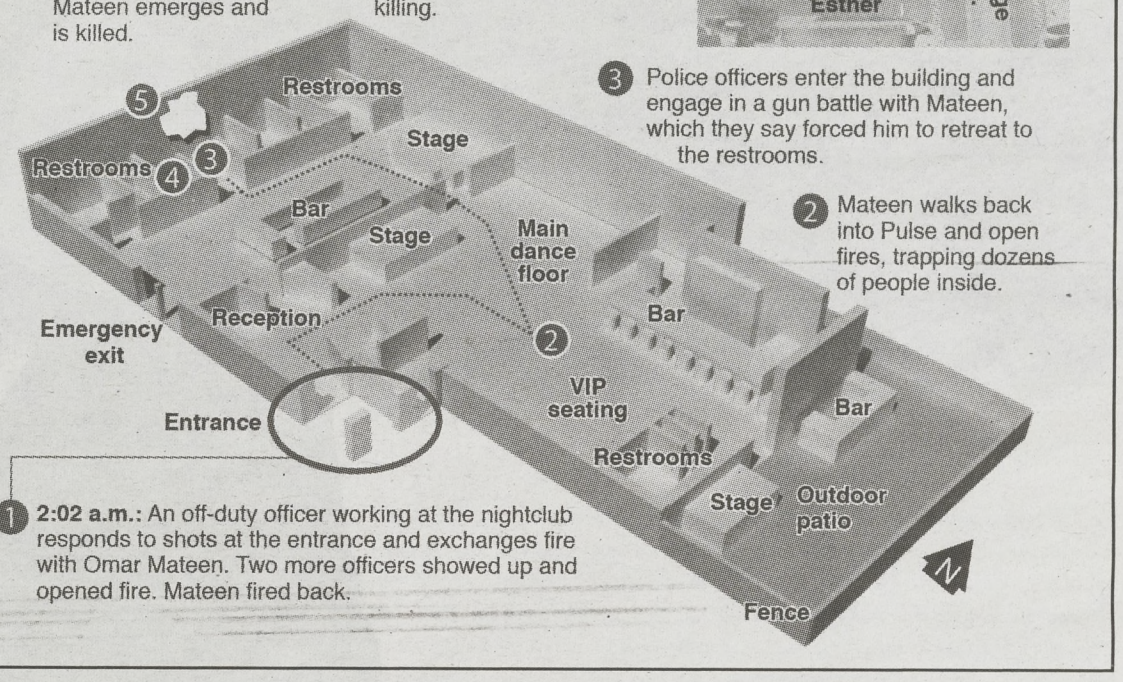
The Long Beach vigil was held Sunday at Harvey Milk Park.

Cal State Long Beach is holding its own vigil today at 11:30 a.m. at the southwest terrace of the University Student Union.

Three-hour shooting rampage and hostage siege

Gunman Omar Mateen, wielding an assault-type rifle and a handgun, opened fire inside a crowded gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, early Sunday, leaving at least 49 people dead in the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. Here is a timeline of events.





SOURCE: AP, ORLANDO SENTINEL, GOOGLE
GRAPHIC: STAFF, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FAST FACTS: HATE CRIMES

Total number of overall hate crimes reported in 2014:
6,385

Total number of hate crimes reported in 2014 based on bias against the LGBTQ community:
1,287

LGBT people are
more than twice as likely
to be the target of a violent hate-crime than Jews or black people.

SOURCES: OSCE HATE CRIME REPORTING, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

CAMPISI

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minded him of how much he missed playing hockey, so he called Mitrano and came to a tryout for the hockey team.

According to Mitrano, Campisi could have graduated last semester, but he put it off until the fall so he could play one last season with the team.

"All the guys, players and coaches, loved Ray. He was a genuinely good human being who cared about others," said Mitrano. "He never complained if things weren't going his way and obstacles only pushed him harder in his effort to succeed."

In a Facebook post from the Long Beach State hockey team, Ray's attitude and commitment were praised: "Ray was and is one of the greatest and most selfless people to wear a Long Beach State jersey. Ray never wanted anything handed to him and worked every day to make himself a better person on and off the ice."

> "His presence will be surely missed and he is one of the most dedicated players to ever wear a[n] LB State jersey."
>
> *-Frank Mitrano, LB State hockey coach*

"His presence will be surely missed and he is one of the most dedicated players to ever wear a[n] LB State jersey," Mitrano said. "Ray did not have any kids [but] the outpouring of condolences, sadness, and grief I have seen and... heard directly from players, alumni, fans, friends and fellow students only shows how many lives he touched."

A memorial service will be held Friday, June 17, at 11 a.m. at the Grace Community Church, 13248 Roscoe Blvd., Sun Valley, Calif. 91352. All are welcomed.

FILIBUSTER

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Joined by Democratic colleagues, Murphy has been advocating that the Senate vote on a measure which would prohibit persons on the no-fly list from purchasing weapons.

The filibuster for gun control is the result of the Orlando mass shooting, which left 49 people dead and 53 injured.

During his filibuster, Murphy said the the story of Omar Mateen, the alleged Orlando shooter, is not just the story of radicalization, but the story of an ill and confused man.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-FL, said that the recent shooting would not have happened if Congress hadn't let the Assault Weapons Ban expire in 2004.

Murphy made gun control legislation his top priority after the Sandy Hook shooting in Newtown, Conn., in 2012.

Since the Sandy Hook shooting, he said that despite polls showing Americans are in favor of stricter gun legislation, nothing has been done and he's had enough.

"Together, we are proving that our voices are the voices of the vast majority of Americans who want action," tweeted @SenateDems, a twitter account run by leadership staff of Senate Democrats.

Murphy said that he believes that Republicans and Democrats can come together on the issue and find a solution.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES

Special Olympic athletes participated in events at the 2016 summer games including track and field and basketball at Cal State Long Beach June 11 and 12.

Spirits lifted, notions shifted

The life changing event comes to CSULB for its 19th consecutive year.

BY JASON ENNS
Arts & Life Editor

Special Olympics Southern California just hosted its Summer Games June 11-12, using Cal State Long Beach as its venue for the 19th year in a row.

Special Olympics is hosted in over 170 countries and has 4.5 million athlete participants across the globe.

Every state has its own officially recognized Special Olympics, except for California, which has events split between Northern and Southern California. The Southern California region extends all the way from the hills of San Luis Obispo to our southernmost desert, and the area's Summer Games have been hosted on the CSULB campus since 1998.

Over 26,000 athletes competed in the games this weekend, and more than 2000 volunteers contributed in any way, from food donations to health services as well as providing cheers of support at the events.

There are more than 12 track and field events comprising the olympics, as well as games in aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce and gymnastics.

Athletes are divided based upon their skill ability.

"[That way] each athlete is actually competing against athletes that are at their same level," Communications Director Brian Szczerbinski. "So it's more equal and fair competition for people."

There's a family pavilion for people who have family members with intellectual disabilities, and even a young athlete's demonstration.

"You can watch athletes from ages 2-8 competing in sports, a lot of them for the very first time," Szczerbinski said. "[It] helps with their development, hand-eye coordination and general growth."

Competitors are welcomed to visit the "Help the Athletes Village," which provides free health screenings to the athletes in every field from dental to vision, podiatry, nutrition and physical therapy. Often times athletes walk out with a new pair of shoes or glasses.

The Special Olympics is the largest sports organization in the world and has had a huge impact on the intellectually disabled community.

"We provide an outlet for them where they are accepted and are included, where they can be themselves and have a social interaction," Szczerbinski said. "[Interactions] that I think you and I probably take for granted, [like] having friends."

Before Special Olympics there were few outlets for the intellectually disabled

"They would go home.There wasn't a program, there wasn't a club that they could sign up where they could feel included, and part of it," Szczerbinski said. "That's really what we provide, we provide that avenue for them where they can be themselves and grow when given an opportunity, and through that it provides them with the confidence and that ability to go work a job."

According to Szczerbinski, Special Olympic athletes are twice as likely to have a job than other people with intellectual disabilities, partially because of the skill sets they get by participating in these events.

"Working with our athletes just really changes your perception on life," Szczerbinski said. "Most things for them can be a lot more difficult than you and I, just even getting up in the morning, getting ready or getting to the location they want to get to But they are some of the happiest people that I have ever met or you could ever meet and they don't really let obstacles getting in there way."

Szczerbinski spoke of an athlete that participated in and completed the 100 meter dash, despite limited mobility in his left leg.

"[He was] going as fast and hard as he could," Szczerbinski said. "Because he loved competing and sports and just being out there on the field, being in that nature where he's accepted and included and he's trying to do his best."

Of course, Special Olympics doesn't just have a positive effect on its athletes, but the community too.

"People are more willing to be accepting of people with intellectual disabilities," Szczerbinski said. "Just because it takes someone a little longer to get to that point, they're going to be their to support them get to that because they can accomplish it when given an opportunity."

About 1200 people attended the free event last weekend that had 6 sports venues including a basketball area with games live entertainment.

"When people are out there the games really do kind of open their heartsand minds," Szczerbinski said. [It] change their lives."



Fighting for the persecuted

Lorn Films hopes to make a film highlighting horrific untold stories.

BY JASON ENNS
Arts & Life Editor

Lorn Films, a local film production company, is hosting an intimate live performance of their screenplay "175" to gain exposure for a script many years in the making, highlighting the cruelty gay men faced in Nazi Germany.

The focus group performance will be at the Hacienda Ruan restaurant on June 18 in Long Beach.

Since the company's founding in 2015, their mission has been to give a voice to the voiceless. They aim to tell stories of significant human impact that might be overlooked by the film industry for not being box office material.

"You always have to be aware and be proactive for people's rights," said Bob Wilkins, the film's publicist. "And that's all people's rights."

Lorn Film's script is based on survivors victimized by paragraph 175 of German law. The law, beginning in May 1871, prohibited homosexual activity between males and wasn't lifted until March 1994. 140,000 men have been convicted due to this law, and when the third reich was in power, men were sent into the concentration camps – or immediately killed.

The film focuses on a particular story based on true events, in which Edward, a gay German man (played by Windham Beacham), was imprisoned under Nazi law after witnessing his partner's shooting.

He then created a bond with a Jewish woman named Lina (played by Danna Jones) in the concentration camps that gave them both the strength to make it through.

"It's great story," Wilkins said. "And now it's more germane than ever after Orlando"

Once they were both liberated and Lina moved to America, Edward was rearrested which forced Lina to make the difficult choice to return to Germany.

"There's some really horrific scenes when the Nazis take over," Wilkins said. "They burn down one of these guys' galleries and then shoot him in the middle of the street, in front of his partner."

Yael Deynes, cofounder of Lorn Films and writer of "175," has been working on the script since 2004. He sought out 12 of the surviving men put into camps under paragraph 175, though only seven would speak with him due to fear of persecution, even though the law has been lifted.

Like the protagonist Edward, many were sent back into prison to serve a full sentence after the Hitler regime had ended, regardless of their previous time spent in the camps.

The script is a combination of personal stories from the seven men who spoke with Deynes.

"What a lot of people don't know is that in 1933 there were over 100 gay bars and gay magazines. Within a week of Hitler taking power, all of the night clubs and publications were closed," Deynes said. "Within a month of him taking power, over 100,000 gay men disappeared… and the mortality rate for gay men in concentration camps was over 60 percent."

The focus group for "175" will consist of only 30 people, including a potential director, two possible producers and other investors. Lorn is looking for 15 to 20 million dollars in funding, "So we can actually do a good film and give these people the justice they deserve," Deynes said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB WILKINS

Windham Beacham and Carey Embry going over lines in "175" rehearsal.

Right now the run-time is about an hour and 15 minutes, though they continue to tweak the script.

"It's in its infancy at this point in time, but from what I see they almost have the finished product," Wilkins said. "It's very powerful, it kind of haunted me. I was walking around thinking about it a great deal because it has so many traumatic moments in it; betrayal and redemption, you know, everything you would want."

Alongside the film industry members attending the focus group on the Saturday will be representatives of the Museum of Latin American Arts and Art Theatre of Long Beach, in hopes of securing the cast for performances at the two venues – which seat far larger crowds than Hacienda Ruan.

"My main focus of why I started doing this was not because of myself," Deynes said. "It was because these people were forcibly silent because of who they were we have become their voice in a way and we just want their stories to be told."

Deynes conversations with the survivors still resonate with him.

"One of the victims said to me, the only thing we want is justice, we just want our stories to be told, we just want you to have a better future than the paths that were forced through our door," Deynes said. "They just wanted the world to know that they just wanted us to have a better future, and after what happened in Orlando it's been a couple of really tough days."

"The actors and everyone involved are working for free because they are so passionate about the people and what they went through," Deynes said. "That me was the most amazing thing."

The cast knew that issues surrounding the LGBT community were important, but now there is a whole new call to arms, after the worst mass shooting this nation's ever know.

[After] the Orlando thing happened. It went straight to your heart, straight to your soul," Wilkins said. "It was important before but now I think exceedingly so I feel like all the member feel like they're really apart of something bigger than themselves."

Now more than ever this is an issue that should be pushed to the forefront, and incite activity in the fight against intolerance.

"[Orlando] reinforced the need to tell these stories," Deynes said. "I'm speaking for myself now, but if these stories had been told years ago, maybe these things would never happen."

Q&A with 'Orange is the New Black' star

BY MEREDITH BLAKE
Los Angeles Times

Spend a few minutes with Danielle Brooks and it's easy to see why, fresh out of Juilliard, she was cast as orphan-turned-inmate Tasha "Taystee" Jefferson in "Orange Is the New Black." The series returns to Netflix on Friday for its fourth season.

Like her alter ego, the 26-year-old is warm, vivacious and refreshingly free of affectation. The actress made her Broadway debut late last year in a revival of "The Color Purple" and was nominated for a Tony Award. "It's just golden and platinum everywhere," she says of her current hot streak. The following is an edited transcript of the conversation.

Q: Why do you think Taystee has become such a fan favorite?

A: I think they see themselves. A lot of black women haven't gotten the chance to see more than just the sassy black woman or the angry black woman. There's so much depth to her. I think they appreciate her innocence as well as her harsh mouth. She's really so intelligent. She's trying to show that she's capable of making it in the world. I think that's why people love Taystee. I know that's why I love Taystee.

Q: There's a real sense of missed potential with her.

A: Yeah, (she's) really just lacking guidance. It's crazy how the writers have spun it because now she's the one giving that guidance. She's become the mother and now is trying to make sure that Crazy Eyes is doing what she needs to do, Poussey isn't out with hooch all day. It's very interesting how the dynamic for her is changing.

Q: The scene with Crazy Eyes where Taystee breaks down over Vee's death was pretty intense.

A: I was really grateful to the writers because I was happy that I got to show more colors, being that I did go to school for this thing that we call acting it was like, "Finally, I really get to sink my teeth into something."

It was very emotional. Even one of the crew came up to me after and said he had just lost someone in his family and by seeing what we were doing, was able to get some bit of relief from that. That's what excites me about the work that we do. That's what it's for — to heal.

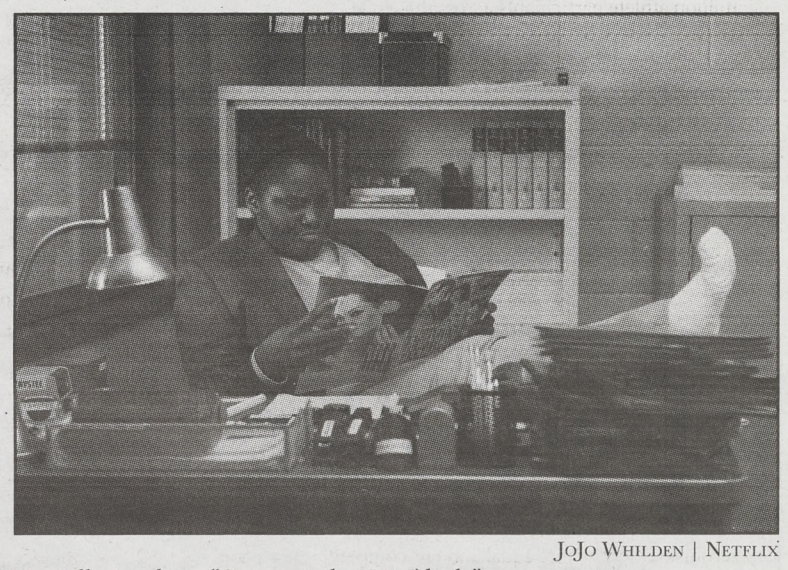
Q: What's the most interesting or unexpected response you've gotten from a fan?

A: One time I was walking down the street, 42nd Street, and this guy was with his son and he stopped me and was like, "I've been incarcerated before and I know many Taystees, so thank you for being honest in what you do." People really are seeing themselves in the characters.

Q: You trained at Juilliard and then went straight into TV. What have you learned from working in the medium?

A: Unlike theater, you don't have a long rehearsal period at all. You just do it. You have limited time to make choices. TV has taught me to make bold choices in the moment, the minute they come to you, and not to hold back.

Q: You've said before that your life changed in 13 hours when "Orange Is the New Black" came out.



JOJO WHILDEN | NETFLIX

Danielle Brooks in "Orange is the New Black."

A: It did. You start to go to restaurants and people are looking and all of a sudden you have a bill that says zero on it and you're, "OK, this is different." Then all of a sudden you have a hair stylist and a makeup artist and a publicist and a lawyer.

I love acting because I get to observe people, I get to walk in Central Park and watch someone playing with their child and that's fun for me. Now, the tables have turned, and people are watching me go to the bathroom, or how I eat, or how I speak. It was a lot to take in a short amount of time.

An open letter to

HOMOPHOBES

How the Orlando shooting was more than a terrorist attack.

BY JORGE PANIAGUA
Opinions Editor

Do you ever wonder why gay clubs exist?

These places exist as a sort of safe haven — one where gay people can be themselves without worrying about "offending" or potentially angering anyone opposed to LGBT community members.

Although it's not their intention to segregate themselves, LGBT people are driven away to form their own establishments as a result of a discriminatory society.

What happened at the Pulse Orlando nightclub early Sunday morning was not only an attack on the LGBT community; it was an invasion of one of the few places in the city where gay people could get away from a world where homosexuality is profusely frowned upon.

If you are homophobic, it's time to mature. It's time to respect others who are different than you.

It's time to respect the LGBT community and become the kind of person who fights hate instead of creating it.

Omar Mateen showed hostility towards gays before committing last Sunday's atrocity, according to law enforcement officials and former co-workers. Making hateful remarks towards gays and expressing outrage towards LGBT community members who publicly displayed affection was something he did routinely.

Do you have something in common with him?

Mateen's hate provoked him to plan and execute an attack at a gay establishment during the club's Latin night, a popular event celebrating Latino culture which was hosted by transgender women. His goal was to murder as many community members at a given time — and he did.

Homophobia encourages those with a violent disposition to act on those prejudices.

When you are prejudiced towards the gay community, you share the same prejudice that Omar Mateen once did. When you feel hatred towards LGBT people, you share the same emotion that Omar Mateen held while killing 49 people and injuring 53 more. When you are disgusted by the sight of a same-sex couple, you share the same disgust that Omar Mateen had towards a minority group struggling to be respected and recognized in this "free" nation.

It's been a few days since the shooting, and since then, reports insinuating that Mateen was actually a closeted homosexual have come to light.

Let's say that the claims that Mateen was gay are true and the gunman was actually struggling with his sexuality, which led him to commit one of the worst mass shootings in US history.

Why would he hate himself so much?

Because of widespread homophobia in this country which didn't allow him to live his life the way he wanted to in fear of being judged, rejected or possibly attacked.

Whether the Orlando gunman was gay or not — the act was homophobic.

Gay marriage was recently legalized nationwide, yes — but that does not mean that the country now entirely accepts LGBT people, and suicide rates of LGBT youth are proof of this.

LGBT youth are four times more likely, and questioning youth are three times more likely, to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, according to the Trevor project which is an organization that provides suicide prevention services for LGBT community members.

The Orlando shooting is only one of many crimes caused by homophobia. There have been thousands in the past few years. According to crime statistics gathered by the FBI, there were over 1,100 incidents involving crimes against LGBT people in 2014 alone.

Not to mention, the Southern Poverty Law Center has seen an increase in anti-LGBT hate groups, their numbers rising from 27 in 2011 to 48 in 2015.

Moreover, at nearly the same time that the news broke about the Orlando shooting, reports emerged of a man headed to the Los Angeles LGBT pride event. He was armed with assault weapons and said he wanted to "harm" the parade.

Your hatred towards LGBT people is no different than his, even if you don't go out and plan attacks like him.

Your homophobic remarks, attitude and perspective on life creates a hostile environment not only for the LGBT community, but for the world around you. Why spread hate and ignorance when you can easily do the opposite?



TRANG LE | DAILY 49ER
A Long Beach resident holds a candle and rainbow flag to show their support for the Orlando victims.

Gay people go to gay clubs to embrace a key component of their identity in an establishment where it is seen as the norm whereas it is seen as distinct to society outside of the LGBT community.

People attend these places to be with their partners or friends and forget that they live in a world that constantly discriminates them.

Pulse nightclub was supposed to serve as a kind of haven last Sunday, but the night was violently interrupted by someone filled with a great deal of unnecessary anger and hate towards a people who meant him no harm.

Let's make this nation — this world, even — a better place for all people, including LGBT community members.

It's time to stand up against homophobia rather than cheering it on.

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.



BOBBY YAGAKE | DAILY 49ER

Long Beach State fans cheer during as the men's basketball team takes on San Diego State at the Walter Pyramid in December 2015.

Inspiring the fans

Long Beach State athletics partners with The Aspire Group to handle ticket sales and add to the fan experience.

BY MATTHEW SIMON
Sports Editor

Long Beach State Athletics announced June 10 that it will be partnering with The Aspire Group to provide ticket sales and service support for all ticketed LBSU athletic events.

In the statement, LBSU announced that it will form an on-site Fan Relationship Management Center (FRMC) that will include one selling manager and one sales consultant.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Aspire Group to grow the Long Beach State fan base," said Rob Clark, Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Relations in the statement. "Building genuine relationships with our alumni and community are critical to growing a new generation of Beach Athletics fans and this partnership will enhance our ability to provide a first-rate, personalized experience for more supporters."

With a global reach, LBSU is hoping the partnership will increase ticket sales across all sporting events through highly trained employees.

"The Aspire group employees receive the best ticket sales and service training in the sports industry in the sports industry and this training is transferred into every partnership that we work with," said Bill Fagan, Aspire's SVP & GM of Fan Relationship Management. "We look forward to providing Long Beach State with a unique set of services that will provide the edge in achieving their goals in regards to ticketing."

Tony Garrett, Aspire's Regional Vice President of Fan Relationship Management, will oversee this partnership.

With successful runs with the Memphis Grizzlies, Atlanta Hawks and New Orleans Pelicans at the professional level, Garrett was successful while at Tulane's Athletic Sales where he oversaw sell outs at the Green Waves' Yulman Stadium.

Anti-doping authorities report problems with Russian drug testing

BY DAVID WHARTON
Los Angeles Times

The World Anti-Doping Agency has issued a troubling update on drug testing in Russia during the months when that nation was hit by a series of cheating scandals.

The report encompasses 2,947 tests conducted from mid-November through May, with what officials characterized as a "significant amount" of athletes who skipped or could not be located for testing.

The timing is especially bad for the banned Russian track team, which is seeking reinstatement for the 2016 Summer Olympics at an international track federation meeting Friday.

There were a reported 52 adverse analytical findings in the country over a six-month period, 49 of them for meldonium, a heart medication recently added to the banned list. Tennis star Maria Sharapova tested positive for that substance.

In many instances, WADA stated, Russian athletes evaded tests or withdrew from competitions when testers showed up.

One athlete was seen running from the stadium immediately after competing. Another was caught using a hidden container that authorities believe held clean urine. When the substitute urine leaked to the floor, she allegedly tried to bribe the tester.

The athlete ultimately tested positive, WADA reported.

More than a dozen members of the Russian race walking team failed to start a national championship event in February, officials noted. The entire men's under-18 hockey team was replaced by the under-17 roster just before the world championships.

At the time, media reports alleged that players on the older team were using meldonium.

In a passage that appears to support allegations of systemic cheating, testers said they felt intimidated entering military areas where some athletes train and that armed government agents threatened them with expulsion from the country.

The Russian track federation was banned from international competition last year after WADA presented evidence of systemic doping. Subsequent media reports have alleged cheating in other Russian sports.

As part of widespread reforms, Russian officials have allowed WADA observers and British anti-doping workers to be involved in much of the testing in their country.

Ichiro passes Rose with 4,257 combined hits

BY CRAIG DAVIS
Sun Sentinel

SAN DIEGO — Ichiro Suzuki recorded the 4,256th hit of his career with an infield single in the first inning Wednesday at Petco Park, matching Pete Rose's career total.

He pulled ahead of the major league record-holder by smashing a two-out double to right in the ninth inning off Fernando Rodney.

Ichiro topped the second pitch of the game from the Padres' Luis Perdomo along the first-base line and easily beat the throw from catcher Derek Norris, which pulled Wil Myers off the bag but wouldn't have been in time.

The occasion was marred by the Marlins' 6-3 loss to the Padres as Justin Nicolino coughed up the lead twice. That concluded a disappointing 4-5 trip against three teams at or near the bottom of their respective divisions.

Ichiro's achievement will not be recognized as a record in Major League Baseball because 1,278 of his hits came in Nippon Professional Baseball.

Ichiro has 2,979 hits in MLB. He indicated last weekend that he considers reaching 3,000 hits in the majors a more important accomplishment.

Ichiro received an enthusiastic ovation from a sparse crowd in the early innings of the matinee finale of a three-game series. He went on to score the first run of the game on a single by Christian Yelich.

Rose has taken exception to the comparison, pointing out he had 427 hits in the minor leagues. Ichiro falls short of Rose in hits as a professional, though he had 156 in two seasons in Japan's version of the minor leagues before he turned 20, including one season when he had a 46-game hitting streak.

It's a moot argument as Ichiro is not supplanting Rose from the MLB record. But the Baseball Hall of Fame will celebrate his career achievement, which has generated major interest in Japan.

No where is there more admiration for the 42-year-old star than from his Marlins teammates.

"It's awesome," right-hander David Phelps said before the game. "I was fortunate to play with a few guys in New York who are going to be Hall-of-Famers. I think it's really important for a team with as many young players as we have. You're seeing a Hall-of-Fame player, day in, day out. You see what it takes to be great at this game for a long period at a time.

"Sitting in the bullpen watching him every day is like, there is no slowing down for him. The guy is hitting .350 right now. He's playing like he's 20 years old again. He's got a serious love for the game. That passion comes through, day in, down out. You watch him go about his job. He takes pride in what he does."

Marlins starter Nicolino (2-4), seeking to end a victory drought spanning seven starts, coughed up the lead twice.

Four consecutive two-out hits in the fifth yielded three runs for San Diego and ended the left-hander's day after 4 2/3 innings with a 5-3 deficit. Earlier he gave up a solo homer to Melvin Upton, Jr., one of four extra-base hits among the 10 he allowed.

In his previous two starts, Nicolino gave up 12 and nine hits without lasting past the fifth inning either time. Wednesday was the shortest outing of the season for Nicolino, who hasn't won since May 3.

The Marlins had trouble making headway against Perdomo, a Rule 5 draft pick by the Padres last winter who came into the game with a 9.50 ERA and was making a spot start in place of injured Andrew Cashner. He held them to three runs and six hits in six innings.

They opened the game with three consecutive hits, but only Ichiro scored. They added two in the fourth on a RBI single by J.T. Realmuto and a sacrifice fly by Miguel Rojas, after Marcell Ozuna was hit by a pitch to start of a string of four consecutive Marlins reaching base.



Kirby Lee | Long Beach State Athletics

Junior Riley Cooks soars through the air during the long jump. The junior finished 20th in the heptathlon at the NCAA Track & Field Championship in Eugene, Ore.

Track & Field athletes soar to new heights

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

After competing at the NCAA Track & Field Championship June 8-11, three 49ers received honorable mention All-America honors based on their performances.

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association announced the honors Monday.

Juniors Riley Cooks and Robert Marlow and senior Fatima Vergara were recognized after 17th-24th finishes. Cooks came 20th in the heptathlon with 5,372 points.

Cooks set three lifetime records in the high jump, shot put and 100-meter hurdles.

The junior's 13.59 time in the 100-meter hurdles is Cooks' lifetime best maintaining, her position at No. 3 on Long Beach State's all-time chart. She also set lifetime bests clearing 5-05.25 in the high jump and a 41-04.25 throw in shot put.

Cooks was also named the Big West Women's Athlete of the Meet after scoring 31 points at the conference championships.

Vergara, who was the first 49er to qualify for the women's hammer throw at the national contest, finished 23rd in the event with a toss of 183-11.

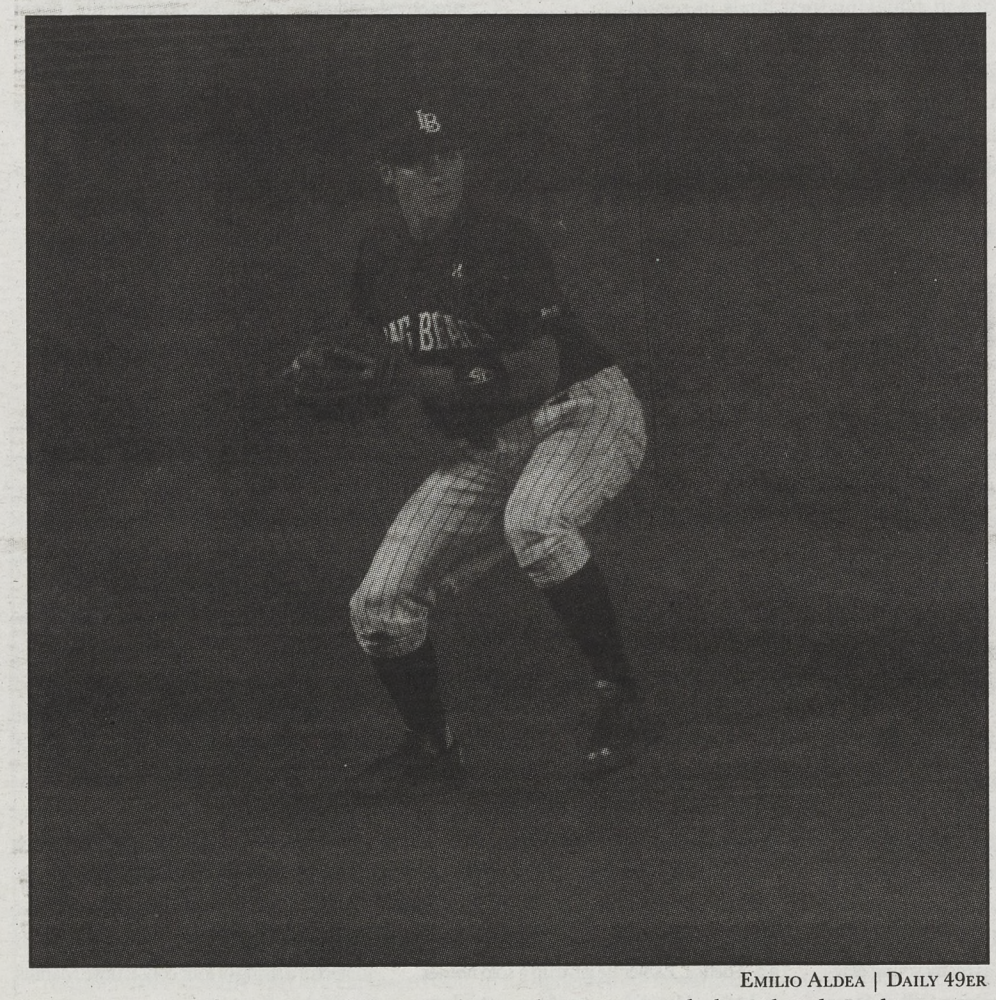
The senior secured her spot to nationals after setting a school record with a throw of 199-08, placing 12th out of 48 at the West Prelims.

Along with her Big West title, Vergara finishes in the top ten in the school's all-time chart in shot put and discuss, while holding the LBSU record in the weight throw at 62-11.50.

In the men's hammer throw, Marlow placed 24th with a throw of 197-06. He was the first 49er to advance to nationals since 2011.

Marlow, who was a walk-on, had a break out year in 2016 with eight throws over 200 feet and had a top-10 showing in all regular-season competitions.

Marlow's best throw landed him an individual victory at the USC Trojan Invitational March 18th with a throw of 215-02 which is third in school history.



Emilio Aldea | Daily 49er

Garrett Hampson, preseason All-American, signed a contract with the Colorado Rockies. Hampson was drafted in the 3rd round with the 81st pick

Heading to the bigs

Long Beach State duo sign contracts with Colorado Rockies and New York Mets after MLB draft.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

Long Beach State baseball players Garrett Hampson and Austin McGeorge have signed contracts to join the Colorado Rockies and New York Mets, respectively.

Hampson, who was selected early in the third round by the Rockies June 10, signed for $750,000 on Wednesday.

The junior was huge defensively for the Dirtbags with a fielding percentage of .982, and was named the Big West Defensive Player of the Year.

This isn't the first time the Rockies organization has looked to Long Beach State for help in the infield. In 2005, the Rockies selected Troy Tulowitzki with the 7th overall pick.

"It's a dream come true," Hampson said. "You know, you dream about it as a little kid and just to see your name up there is pretty special."

Colorado has selected 11 LBSU players since 1992 and six in the last eight drafts.

Hampson is a three-time All-Big West performer. The junior batted .302 and scored a team best 55-runs and stole 23 bases.

The shortstop had 75 hits, 26 RBIs and a .387 on base percentage.

"I spent three great years at Long Beach State and I think it's time to move on," added Hampson. "I'm ready for it and can't wait to get started."

Along with Hampson, junior Austin McGeorge signed a contract with the Mets after being selected by the team in the 7th round.

The relief pitcher signed a deal for $175,000. McGeorge, who posted a 1.02 ERA, was named to the All-Big West Conference team after his 2016 performance.

He allowed 35 hits and 14 walks while tallying 76 strikeouts. The righthander joins former Dirtbag Jeff McNeil, who was the last Dirtbag selected by the Mets in 2013.

Sophomore Chris Mathewson and redshirt junior Lucas Jacobsen, who were also selected, have yet to decide if they will sign or remain with the Dirtbags.